

**CITY OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Public Utilities Committee of the City of Grafton was held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Grafton, North Dakota immediately following the 5:30 p.m. Ways and Means Committee meeting, Monday, December 3, 2018.

Chairperson Chris West presided. Members present: Phil Ray, Brian Sieben, Mary Stark and Greg Young. Others present: Nick Ziegelmann, Shane Mohn, Chris Lipsh, Dave Fellman, Don Hutson, Tony Dumas, Kevin Sevigny, Russ Geddes, and Todd Morgan.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

It was moved by Mr. Sieben, seconded by Ms. Stark and carried to accept and order filed the Balance Sheets, Income and Expense Statements, and subsidiary reports for all Enterprise Funds for the month ending October, 2018. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Chief Tony Dumas reported officers are finishing with year-end training to comply with State mandates. Chief Dumas reported officers have been putting notices on junk and abandoned vehicles throughout town and issuing parking tickets. It was discussed the City-owned parking lot at 8th Street and Manvel Avenue has become a long-term parking lot for residents in the area. Signs will be placed in the lot designating 24 hour parking. Chief Dumas said he will talk to the manager of the nearby residential structure and make him aware the City will be enforcing parking regulations.

Power Superintendent Russ Geddes reported the Department has been at about half staff for November and December because there was a lot of vacation time to use. The South Substation is back to normal operation; the reclosure that was damaged due to severe weather this summer has been replaced and the feeders are also back to normal. The controller electronics have been programmed so the substation is operating again. An additional reclosure and controller were also purchased to have on inventory for backup when needed in the future. Just in the recent years the reclosures and controllers in the north and south substation have been changed to be the same equipment so the equipment on inventory can be used as backup for both substations.

Christmas decorations were recently put up. Justin Offutt has enrolled in the journey lineworker apprenticeship program and has started working on the academic work.

Last week a contractor was working at the apartment complex between Fernwood Drive and School Road and asked that the power be disconnected for the complex; there was to be a short, scheduled outage until the service was reenergized. When the Power Department went to reenergize, the high demand due to all electric heat at the apartments kept causing the feeder to trip, causing a larger area outage. All services were back on within an hour.

Several lights are out along the eastside bikepaths; Mr. Geddes estimates in the last few years about \$10,000 of maintenance has been done on these lights; they are very poor quality, not worth investing more and he is looking for a better solution. A grant was used to purchase the lights so it will be necessary to find out what constraints there are to replacement. Due to the style of poles only certain type fixtures can be used. The City Administrator said the bikepath by the School needs lighting also, but it would be best to wait until the Flood Risk Reduction Project storm sewer pumping station project is complete before installing lights. New Christmas lights are being considered for the 2020 budget also.

Water Superintendent Kevin Sevigny reported the Water Department has completed its year-end projects in preparation for winter weather. The City received the Midco Diving and Marine Services, Inc. Report of the Water Plant 2 million gallon reservoir inspection; Mr. Sevigny said the report is on file at the Water Plant and City Hall and encouraged review of the thorough Report.

Mr. Sevigny reported there have already been several structures with frozen water pipes this year. The last two caused extensive damage to homes, the furnaces went out and the people were not home. He said there is no charge for seasonal disconnects so he strongly recommends people have their curb stops shut off when they leave for the season.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Ms. Stark and seconded by Mr. Young to recommend the City Council approve the application for possession and consumption of alcohol at the Armory submitted by Blue Lopez for a Christmas party on December 24th from 7:00-11:00 pm. All members were present and voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Ray, seconded by Mr. Young and carried to adjourn the meeting.

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Chris West, Chairperson

Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor